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Letter dated 17 January 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to transmit for your attention the report on the activities carried out by government agencies of the Republic of Armenia for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Zohrab **Mnatsakanyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 17 January 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Activities carried out by government agencies of the Republic of Armenia for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000)

In 1998, the Government of the Republic of Armenia adopted Decision No. 242 of 15 April 1998 on the main provisions of the Programme for Improving the Status of Women in the Republic of Armenia and Decision No. 406 of 26 June 1998 on approving the 1998-2000 National Action Plan on Improving the Status of Women and Enhancing their Role in Society. On 8 April 2004, the Government of the Republic of Armenia adopted Decision No. 645-N on approving the 2004-2010 National Action Plan on Improving the Status of Women and Enhancing their Role in Society and the List of Actions of the 2004-2010 National Action Plan on Improving the Status of Women and Enhancing their Role in Society. Protocol Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No. 5 on approving the Concept Paper on Gender Policy was endorsed at the government session of the Republic of Armenia on 11 February 2010. Protocol Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No. 19 on approving the 2011-2015 Gender Policy Strategy Paper and the 2011 Gender Policy Action Plan was endorsed at the session of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on 20 May 2011. Protocol Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No. 23 on approving the National Action Plan on Combating Gender-Based Violence, the 2011-2015 Strategy Paper for Combating Gender-Based Violence and the 2011 National Action Plan on Combating Gender-Based Violence was endorsed at the government session of the Republic of Armenia on 17 June 2011.

In the Republic of Armenia, the State policy on equal rights and equal opportunities for women and men is carried out in accordance with the provisions stipulated in those documents.

The main guarantees of equal rights for women and men are provided in the fundamental law of the State, the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia (which entered into legal force on 22 December 2015). Pursuant to article 30 thereof, women and men shall have equal rights, and pursuant to subpoint 4 of article 86, one of the main purposes of State policy is to promote actual equality between women and men.

The instrument for achieving equal rights for women and men is the Law on Ensuring Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Women and Men adopted on 20 May 2013 by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, which establishes the main principles and approaches of the policy on equal rights for women and men in the country.

Within the scope of the aforementioned laws and strategy papers, measures have been implemented in line with the commitments assumed under a number of provisions of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

Major outcomes of the National Action Plan on Combating Gender-Based Violence and the 2011-2015 Strategy Paper for Combating Gender-Based Violence, as per the target areas defined under the strategy

Prevention of gender-based violence

For the purpose of preventing domestic violence, the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia adopted the Law of the Republic of Armenia on Social Assistance on 17 December 2014, which defines the concept of "domestic violence" and includes relevant provisions on providing social assistance to persons subjected to domestic violence.

Order of the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia No. 144-A/1 on approving the Criteria for the Preliminary Identification of Persons Subjected to Domestic Violence was adopted on 20 October 2015.

Order of the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia No. 177-A/1 on approving the Guidelines for Persons Subjected to Domestic Violence was adopted on 10 December 2015.

The purpose of the above-mentioned two documents is to promote the process of identifying and guiding persons subjected to domestic violence and providing them with social services, as well as to provide bodies conducting the identification of persons subjected to domestic violence with relevant instruments and methodologies.

Training courses have been held for 100 health-care practitioners from the provinces for the purpose of enhancing the skills of specialists from medical institutions in identifying cases of gender-based violence and in providing guidance.

Topics relating to gender-based violence have been included in the criteria for and the syllabus of the subject "social science" to provide a basis for teaching on gender-based violence and for teaching methodology in that regard. The course "healthy lifestyle" is taught in the eighth to eleventh grades of general education schools, with 14 hours dedicated to the course by each class per year. The course provides learners with information on the two genders and the relationships between them, on gender-based violence, as well as on the basics of a healthy lifestyle and preparation for family life.

For effective coordination of the activities carried out to protect the rights of people in the Republic of Armenia — young persons, women and girls — and to combat domestic violence, within the scope of the reforms being made in the police by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, pursuant to the Order of the Head of Police of the Republic of Armenia of 16 February 2013, the former Division for Combating Juvenile Crimes of the General Department of Criminal Intelligence of the Police of the Republic of Armenia has been replaced with the Department for the Protection of Juvenile Rights and Combating Domestic Violence of the Police of the Republic of Armenia.

During past years, within the scope of the reforms being implemented in the police of the Republic of Armenia, the role and significance of women in strengthening the system, in enhancing the role of the police in society and in building trust has sharply increased.

As a result of consistent efforts, nearly 20 per cent of the general staff in the different subdivisions of the police of the Republic of Armenia are women, and nearly 5 per cent of them hold senior and chief positions. Today, women are actively engaged in the community police, as well as in the external and operative services.

There has also been a sharp increase in the number of female applicants and trainees at the educational complex of the police of the Republic of Armenia in recent years; currently, they make up nearly 30 per cent of the total number of trainees.

In the context of the implementation of reforms in the police of the Republic of Armenia, the activities being carried out for women's involvement are ongoing.

Action plan for protecting the rights of women and ensuring equal opportunities for women within the defence system of the Republic of Armenia

	Activities	*Executors (co-executors)/status*	*Time frame*
1.	**For the purpose of creating the conditions necessary for ensuring the protection of the rights of women and providing equal opportunities for women within the defence system, importance is attached to the conduct of periodic research and surveys, objective assessment of the results of such research and surveys and, on that basis, submission of recommendations on creating more favourable conditions for women's involvement.**		
1.1	Conduct sociological surveys among servicewomen (on existing problems, social-psychological adaptation, relations with fellow servicemen and other topics) and, on the basis of those surveys, draft recommendations regarding revision of the policy.	Department of Information and Public Affairs, Department for Activities with Personnel, military educational establishments (Centre for Human Rights and Building Integrity, with the involvement of international partners)	Starting from January 2016, regularly (but not less than once a year)
1.2	Conduct surveys among society (on the image of servicewomen, their role, public confidence in them and other topics) and, on the basis of those surveys, submit recommendations regarding change of public opinion.	Department of Information and Public Affairs (Centre for Human Rights and Building Integrity, with the involvement of international partners)	Starting from January 2016, if necessary
1.3	For the purpose of studying the issues that wives of servicemen experience and the reasons impeding their swift integration into the military environment, conduct surveys of the families of servicemen and at military settlements (only upon consent) and submit recommendations, on the basis of those surveys.	Department for Activities with Personnel, Department of Information and Public Affairs, Department of Social Protection of Servicemen (Centre for Human Rights and Building Integrity, with the involvement of international partners)	Starting from January 2016, if necessary

Activities	*Executors (co-executors) status*	*Time frame*
2. Protection of the rights of women and the provision of equal opportunities for women in the defence system must be anchored in the development of educational capacities and enhancement of awareness, paying special attention to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and other related resolutions, as well as other issues related to protection of rights of women.		
2.1 Include in curricula, modules and international courses information relating to the protection of the rights of women and the provision of equal opportunities for women in the defence system and in related sectors.	Personnel and Military Education Department, military educational establishments (Department of Defence Policy, Centre for Human Rights and Building Integrity, with the involvement of international partners) Partially completed. Educational materials on the rights of women in the armed forces have been included, as a special section, in the curriculum for the subject "Human rights in the armed forces".	Starting from September 2016. Teaching and educational materials will be regularly revised and updated.
2.2 Undertake measures (including with the assistance of international organizations and interested non-governmental organizations) on the training of professors and lecturers and preparation of educational materials on the aforementioned topics.	Department of Defence Policy, Centre for Human Rights and Building Integrity (with the involvement of international partners, Personnel and Military Education Department, upon recommendation or own initiative	Starting from January 2016, if necessary
2.3 Based on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and other related resolutions, organize training courses on the protection of the rights of women, the protection of women wounded in military operations and other related topics for personnel participating in peacekeeping missions.	Department of Defence Policy, Centre for Human Rights and Building Integrity (with the involvement of international partners), Peacekeeping Brigade (upon recommendation of commanders or on own initiative)	Starting from January 2016, if necessary
2.4 Organize training courses for the personnel of the military police on the protection of the rights of women within the defence system (also engaging representatives from the Investigative Committee and the Military Prosecutor's Office, upon agreement).	Centre for Human Rights and Building Integrity (with the involvement of international partners), military police (upon recommendation or own initiative) Partially completed. These issues were discussed during the lectures on human rights in the armed forces held for the personnel of the military police in 2014-2015.	Starting from January 2016, if necessary

Activities	Executors (co-executors) status	Time frame
3. Increasing the involvement of women in the defence system is in the interests of the State because it enables the State to benefit from the professional capacities of a social resource otherwise unjustifiably left out of the sector. Thus, there is a need to take steps to specify the conditions and standards for the involvement and advancement of women in the defence system, to expand their areas of involvement and increase the level of their participation in decision-making.		
3.1 Define the physiological-biological and other gender-based criteria used to restrict women from holding certain offices.	Combat Readiness Department, Military Medical Department, Personnel and Military Education Department, with respect to defining the criteria (Centre for Human Rights and Building Integrity, with the involvement of international partners)	Starting from January 2016 until January 2017
3.2 For the purpose of ensuring the involvement of women in the policy development and decision-making process within the defence system, undertake steps to increase the number of women in the composition of advisory bodies, commissions, committees and working groups set up within the framework of the Ministry of Defence or with the participation of the Ministry of Defence, by ensuring that women make up at least 10 per cent of participants in each of them.[a]	Department of Defence Policy, Strategic Planning Department, Centre for Human Rights and Building Integrity and other subdivisions in charge of the formation of bodies	Starting from January 2016
3.3 In case of an increase in the number of servicewomen in the armed forces, consider making records of the special needs of women when planning public procurement for the needs of the armed forces.	Material and Technical Procurement Department, Rear Department, Military Medical Department, Department of Financial Budgeting and Planning	Starting from January 2016
3.4 Review the existing legal acts regulating the issues relating to the involvement of women in the defence system, making appropriate alterations, if necessary.	Centre for Human Rights and Building Integrity (with the involvement of international partners), Legal Department, other subdivisions, if necessary	Until the end of 2018
3.5 Promote initiatives on involving women in different subdivisions of the armed forces, by paying special attention to the involvement of women in subdivisions participating in peacekeeping missions.	All subdivisions, with respect to aspects pertaining to their activities Territorial military commissariats, by way of notice from reserve or through public awareness	Starting from January 2016

[a] For the purpose of avoiding the replacement of members in established bodies, the option of engaging women as observers or additional members may be considered.

Activities	*Executors (co-executors)/status*	*Time frame*
	The commander of the Peacekeeping Brigade, also by considering international experience Department of Defence Policy, Centre for Human Rights and Building Integrity (with the involvement of international partners)	
4. For the purpose of ensuring the protection of the rights of women and providing equal opportunities for women within the defence system, it is necessary to create an appropriate system of values and principles and establish mechanisms for monitoring the protection of that system		
4.1 For the purpose of forming the right views on the role of women within the defence system, organize meetings and discussions with different circles of society, which will be held with the participation of women involved in the defence system, female cadets of military educational establishments, women veterans of the war and field experts. If possible, also organize conferences with the participation of international experts.	Department of Information and Public Affairs, military commissariats, other subdivisions (within the scope of their competence), Department of Defence Policy, Centre for Human Rights and Building Integrity (with the involvement of international partners)	Starting from January 2016, but not less than once a year
4.2 For the purpose of monitoring the protection of the rights of women and ensuring equal opportunities for women in the defence system, form a mixed group (with equal involvement of women and men from different subdivisions). The activities of the group must be targeted at disclosure of cases of gender discrimination in the defence system, identification of causes and submission of recommendations on avoiding such cases.	Department of Defence Policy, Department for Activities with Personnel, Centre for Human Rights and Building Integrity, military police (with the involvement of international partners), with respect to establishing a monitoring group and elaboration of instrumentation for monitoring Other subdivisions, if necessary	Starting from January 2016